

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. Proofing paper comprising:

- (a) a first blank region for subsequent printing of a content image portion; and
- (b) a second region outside of the first blank region having one or more standard color bars pre-printed thereon.

2. The proofing paper of claim 1 wherein the second region further comprises one pre-printed standard color bar, the second region having a blank area adjacent to the pre-printed color bar for subsequent printing of a second color bar.

3. A hard proof that can be visually inspected to determine if the hard proof meets industry standards, the hard proof being a sheet of proofing paper comprising:

- (a) a content image portion;
- (b) one or more standard first color bars pre-printed on the sheet of proofing paper prior to printing of the content image portion thereon;
- (c) one or more second color bars printed along with the content image portion and printed in a predefined relationship to the one or more first color bars so as to allow for visual inspection directly on the proofing paper using only the color bar image data of the first and second color bars, and without using any external color reference materials, wherein a visually discernable color match indicates that a proof which meets industry standards has been made and a visually discernable color mismatch indicates that a proof which meets industry standards has not been made.

4. The hard proof of claim 3 wherein the first and second color bars are printed adjacent to each other.

5. The hard proof of claim 4 wherein the first and second color bars are selected so as to have identical color appearance when imaged with their corresponding ICC profiles using a calibrated marking system.

6. The hard proof of claim 3 wherein one or more of the second color bars are printed over at least a portion of the one or more first color bars, wherein the subtractive colors are used for the visual inspection.

7. The hard proof of claim 6 wherein the first and second color bars have different color appearance when imaged with their corresponding ICC profiles using a calibrated marking system.

8. The hard proof of claim 3 wherein the content image portion and the one or more second color bars are part of a digital proof file.